My housekeeping costs me just 4.2. the best food & good wine

Rome 3d May 1872

My dear Marcia

I am a little fidgety about you lest my dear boy Walter has not sent you the £10 tho' I have great reliance on him & more so as he made this proposal — to do so — but no doubts you'd write & tell me & beg to assure you that I'll find a way to send you the £10 at once

As yet I have not received a penny of my pension but as I have the two letters of Ld Granville telling me that the last of £60 is being purchased for me by Mr Gladstone on the Royal Bounty Fund; so I cannot have the least doubt of the result & more so as Ld G. has taken the kindest interest about me & offers me an annual order of £50 for any little sketch "that will not take up my time"

A little trouble has taken place about

my house for it seems that I made an over good bargain of the lease for myself, and now the society feels that the rent £83 is too much for them — The house is now to be relet & the lease to return to me so that once more I shall be master as at first, but I do not think of profit as I shall always have the fountain rooms rent free

My new housekeeper did not succeed as the work was too much for her & she took to wine bibbing & cost me some trouble so now I have got back my good old servant of 7 years & I am very comfortable, the new woman goes to the service of an English Lady next week & will have much less to do

You see I'm quite an old bachelor & must have every thing in an orderly way

I am glad to tell you that I make good progress in my health, lately I have been on a visit in the country & I found myself much stronger & I made 3 draw-

without my hand trembling, which agreably
surprised me — my Drs all congratulate me
on my marvellous recovery & my good looks
for as I have suffered so severely I expected
to show signs of it

Do write me one of your nice long letters
& tell me all the news of your dear ones &
most of all of poor dear Tom, I hope the
weather may now allow him to go out a
little, I had projected going to London for
good & all but the Doctors tell me a visit
would cripple me for life & so I have made
up my mind & body to remain — for my motto
is to let well alone

So I'll hope to hear a good account of you
& that you have got the ten pounds

Just now I'm expecting Arthur & his
Bride Mr John Ruskin & 8 friends all
one party, they'll stay a fortnight, I hope
to go with 'em & see over again all the Roman
sights — In the Summer I propose to go to
Tivoli & take more baths not that I am ill but
I hope to be able to paint the forest scenes

Your loving brother Joe

all the newspapers took my part warmly - You
see I had no actual right to a pension as I was chosen
out of rule, without examination & beyond age, yet
my fitness for the place saved me at last

I think of going to the old Tolfa at the end of June
for the mountain air brisks me up & I'll take the baths
as usual - Much have I picked up & I can now dress
myself & range about for a couple of hours, so you
see "there's life in the old dog yet" - Then I'm in
good spirits & even doing the Dandy somewhat - I'm
now able to go out to dinner - my sight is good &
even my hearing but I'm not at all equal to
worry - My room over the fountain of Trevi is very
pleasant & all I could wish - then the large room
for my pictures is splendid - there I should like
for you & I to have a tete a tete gossip & have you
to dine & show you the Lions of Rome - but this
I'm sorry to say can never be for us only that we
are both infirm & unequal to a journey, but also
we are infirm in purse, tho if I go on picking up
health & money I may still have the delight of
repeating our old conversation & even old jokes

Now I hope you'll be able to give me a line
from your own dear hand & with my love to Emma
& all your dear ones not forgetting Monte I am
ever your loving Joe